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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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FL. 229.



APRIL, 1962

March Employment Level 2,700 Above a Year Ago

The summer work season began in Montana with 158,700 non-farm wage and salary workers on March payrolls. After an employment gain of 700 wage earners from February, March employment was 2,700 higher than March, 1961. It set a record for that month, and was 5,000 more than the average March employment of the past ten years. Farm and ranch employment also showed the first stirrings of spring activity, but some of the early ground work was retarded by wet fields and the effects of the last grip of winter.

Trade Heads Hiring Line

Trade industries were at the top of March hiring lines with 400 workers added to payrolls during the month. Current employment in this field, including both wholesale and retail units, is estimated at 37,600. Employment expansion was shared by hiring at newly opened shopping centers and worker recalls by established firms as main street business started to pick up after the winter letdown. Future employment trends in trade segments look good. The opening of several new shopping centers, a predicted record tourist year, better farm conditions than a year ago, and a general feeling of consumer confidence points to a healthy economic climate on the state's main streets this summer.

Construction Employs 10,300

Construction, perhaps more than any other industry, has been largely responsible for

EARLY SUMMER JOB SHAPE-UP BEGINS WITH BRIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Generally improved labor market conditions over a year ago were evident as March ended. The summer work season had begun, and new jobs in industry and farm were opening up at the rate of about a thousand a week. Agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and the trade and service industries are expected to provide the bulk of the summer job opportunities. There are signs of an improved climate in metal mining, but the industry has some distance to go before employment levels climb back to 1956-57 totals. Smelter employment has been building up during the past few months. There is good omen, too, in expansion of the timber products industry.

The brighter economic outlook is tempered by the disturbing factor of continuing high unemployment. At the end of March, 18,935 unemployed workers were seeking jobs through the state's 22 local employment offices. Although the total was down 3,000 from March, 1961, it was nearly 2,400 more than the average March jobseeker count of the past ten years. Entry of high school and college graduates into the labor market during the next two months will add to the total. The paradox of high unemployment amidst record breaking employment levels will remain a part of the Montana summer labor market scene.

maintaining total employment levels over last year. Employment was up 300 from February to March, but there was a healthy increase of 2,500 workers over March, 1961 payrolls. Most of the increase is attributed to work on federal projects including missile site construction, expansion of air base facilities, dams and highways.

Other Gains Moderate

Over the month gains of 100 each were recorded in the service industries and in government employment. All of the advance in government employment was at the federal level and consisted chiefly of the recall of forest service and national park workers to summer assignments.

Employment in all mining, at 6,600, and

in the transportation, communications and utilities group, at 17,300, failed to move from February totals. Employment in finance, insurance and real estate units was down 100 from February, and even with a year ago.

Lull in Lumbering

Logging crews in timbered areas of the state were temporarily idled by spring break-up conditions. Soft roads and load limits cut lumbering employment by 200 from February, causing a net drop of 100 in manufacturing employment. Total manufacturing employment was, however, 400 above last March. Most sawmills were operating on stockpiled logs with only short breaks in continuity of operations.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Feb. 1962	2) Jan. 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb. 1962	Jan. 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb. 1962	Jan. 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb. 1962	Jan. 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb. 1962	Jan. 1962	Feb. 1961
3) All Manufacturing.....	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.2	2.2	1.4	3.4	3.9	4.5	1.2	1.1	.8	1.6	2.0	2.8
Durable Goods.....	4.3	4.1	3.5	2.8	2.8	1.4	4.0	4.7	6.3	1.4	1.2	.9	2.0	2.4	4.0
Primary Metal.....	1.5	2.4	5.6	.2	.1	.8	2.7	2.5	9.0	.6	.3	.6	1.9	.7	5.8
3) Nondurable Goods.....	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.3	2.3	2.5	1.5	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.3	.6
All Mining.....	5.1	7.9	3.7	1.4	3.7	1.2	6.3	5.6	4.9	2.2	2.0	1.0	2.4	1.9	1.5
Metal Mining.....	5.3	5.5	4.1	.5	.4	.1	5.3	4.5	4.9	2.9	2.0	.6	.8	.8	.9

- 1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Apr. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg (382 jobseekers, 77 new, 225 men, 157 women). Smelter hiring dominated March labor market trends, a pattern expected to continue through May. A slow but steady improvement starting to show in other industrial groups. Farm hiring trends still slow, but developing.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hlysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,052 jobseekers, 561 new, 2,140 men, 912 women). Warmer weather triggered employment advances in most industries but gains were most impressive in construction, trade and service. March building permits totalled nearly \$½ million. Plans under way for 35 unit home development project. Expansion of crews on heavy construction including Yellowtail Dam and highway projects forecast next 30 days. Some setbacks noted in oil fields with shutdown of some rigs in Roundup area. Farm labor demand up sharply with start of spring planting. Nearly 500 students available for spring thinning and hoeing in sugar beet fields.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(769 jobseekers, 163 new, 545 men, 224 women). Over \$7 million in construction projects active including interstate highway, retirement manor, school, home building and commercial remodeling projects. Logging slowed somewhat by spring breakup but major sawmill operating on stockpiled logs. After shutdown of several months, cement plant resumed operations employing 165. Seasonal jobs developing in trade and service segments as tourist season approaches.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,430 jobseekers, 224 new, 849 men, 581 women). Mining and manufacturing firms provided most new job openings in March. Upward trend in mining employment expected to continue with estimated 400 new hires during 1962. Expansion of construction payrolls seen next 30 days as work advances on copper concentrator and interstate highway projects.

CUT BANK—(446 jobseekers, 61 new, 362 men, 84 women). Construction work practically nil. Start of gas pipeline from Cut Bank delayed by rejected bids. Big surplus of migratory workers in area awaiting employment on this project. Farm hiring up sharply for variety of activities.

DILLON—(188 jobseekers, 51 new, 152 men, 36 women). Construction activity at Clark Canyon Dam on an up-and-down schedule keyed to weather and other factors. New projects upcoming include drive-

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

	Mar. 1962	Feb. 1962	Mar. 1961	Mar. Avg. 1953-62
Industrial Employment	158,700	158,000	156,000	153,700
New Job Applicants	3,326	3,301	3,220	3,258
Job Applicants, End of Month	18,935	20,627	21,798	16,568
	Apr. 6 1962	Mar. 2 1962	Apr. 7 1961	Avg. 1st Apr. Wk. 1958-62
Insured Unemployment, Week of				
New and Renewal Claims	1,343	1,674	1,258	1,045
Unemployed Weeks Filed	9,609	11,781	14,621	13,341
Total Unemployment Claims	10,952	13,455	15,879	14,365

in bank, forest service building, parking lot and postoffice renovation. Trade and service trends still slow.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(560 jobseekers, 85 new, 430 men, 130 women). Work on air base and housing project using 125 workers; approximately 50 more to be employed as work advances. Government civilian total remains at 300 with only minor increase anticipated this season. Main street hiring starting to pick up. Good trends prevail for farm hiring.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(341 jobseekers, 61 new, 276 men, 65 women). General upswing noted in all fields of activity. Construction agenda looks good but most projects currently only on paper. Oil field activity chiefly in the Baker area. Main street merchants looking for record tourist year.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,932 jobseekers, 504 new, 2,215 men, 717 women). Most industrial groups exhibited good trends during March with trade industries at the top of the list. Pace of construction hiring will quicken during April and following months. Big demand for electronics engineers and technicians coming up. Need for qualified stenographers goes unchecked. New motel and two cafes will open in April.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(540 jobseekers, 61 new, 418 men, 122 women). Main street units provided most March job openings. Logging still in grip of weather-caused setbacks, a condition expected to last through April. Some out migration of workers noted, especially those in lumbering classifications. Favorable trends on the farm front with increased hiring.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(672 jobseekers, 114 new, 565 men, 107 women). Labor market trends show some improvement but not on par with other state areas. Employment expansion should occur in construction and other outside work during April. Railroad hiring to be at bare minimum because of economy measures. Small increase noted in main street hiring. Farm labor demand good.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(876 jobseekers, 204 new, 606 men, 270 women). Expansion noted in most industry groups with exception of logging in White Sulphur Springs and Martinsdale areas. Good activity in heavy construction with good progress on most projects. Opening date of new shopping center delayed until May 15. Shortages persist for qualified stenographers and other office help. Farm labor demand building up.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,938 jobseekers, 168 new, 1,603 men, 335 women). Logging operations still in grip of spring break-up conditions, but re-opening of three sawmills employed 55. Construction still slow but early agenda includes pipeline construction, \$½ million supermarket, school addition, and commercial building. Sorting and grading of 1961 potato crop begun. Soil preparation and other farm work slated for start during April.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(420 jobseekers, 80 new, 345 men, 75 women). Farm hiring outpaced all other industries during March. Non-farm job openings showed little change from February chiefly because of weather caused interruptions in outside work. Employment losses caused by closure of creamery offset by re-opening of brick and tile firm and several small businesses.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(492 jobseekers, 69 new, 346 men, 146 women). Favorable trends exist in most industries sparked by warmer weather and promise of good tourist season. Some setbacks in logging still prevail but mills operating on stockpiled logs with no new hiring. Construction projects operating with short crews with expansion slated during April and May. Some worker shortages developing in trade, service, and clerical classifications.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(421 jobseekers, 87 new, 358 men, 63 women). Improved moisture conditions over last year points to over-all improvement in both industrial and farm

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1954.....	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955.....	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956.....	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957.....	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958.....	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959.....	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960.....	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961.....	156.9	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1962	158.1	158.0	158.7**										

* Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. ** Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Apr. 1

fronts. April will bring more hiring in fields of construction, trade, service, and agriculture. Industry and farm hiring already ahead of last year, a trend expected to carry through summer.

MISSOULA, Arlee, Drummond, Superior—(1,645 jobseekers, 433 new, 1,175 men, 470 women). Employment outlook in industry and farm generally optimistic. Shape of new construction includes wood products plant, bank building, shopping center, two road projects with overpasses, and remodeling and expansion of existing structures. Main street business at good levels. Manufacturing employment holds steady. Temporary slowdown of logging about only dark spot on economic scene.

POLSON—(399 jobseekers, 61 new, 321 men, 78 women). Logging operations held in check by spring break-up conditions. Area sawmills operating at good capacity on stockpiled logs. Construction starts on three projects totaling \$34 million held in abeyance awaiting better weather. Farm labor demand rising with start of spring work.

SHELBY—(384 jobseekers, 83 new, 281 men, 103 women). Job upswing in trade, service and construction highlighted March labor market activity. Farm and ranch hiring starting to increase but delayed in some areas pending moisture. Jobseeker count up slightly over February.

SIDNEY—(290 jobseekers, 39 new, 237 men, 53 women). Spring labor market activity still not too active. Some employment upturn noted in trade industries after winter decline. Construction projects in planning stages only with no optimistic trends for action at present. Good activity in oil leasing and exploration but no boom forecast. Farm labor demands active.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(341 jobseekers, 38 new, 297 men, 44 women). Steady trends prevailed in trade, service, mining and railroads during March. Logging operations still hampered by spring break-up, expected to last until June 1. Area mills operating at good pace on stockpiled logs. Forest service and irrigation crews reporting for seasonal assignments.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(417 jobseekers, 102 new, 335 men, 82 women). Cold weather delayed start of construction, agriculture and other outside work. Most March employment gains centered in implement firms, lumber yards, garages, and bulk plants preparing for summer business. Some expansion of construction employment slated during April. Farm labor demand slow.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Mar. 1962 (2)	Feb. 1962 (3)	Mar. 1961	Feb. '62 to Mar. '62	Mar. '61 to Mar. '62
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	158,700	158,000	156,000	700	2,700
Manufacturing	18,500	18,600	18,300	— 100	200
Durable goods.....	11,600	11,700	11,200	— 100	400
Lumber and timber products.....	6,500	6,700	6,300	— 200	200
Primary metals.....	3,500	3,500	3,500	00	00
Other (4).....	1,600	1,500	1,400	100	200
Nondurable goods.....	6,900	6,900	7,100	00	— 200
Food and kindred products.....	3,600	3,600	3,800	00	— 200
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	800	800	900	00	— 100
Other (5).....	800	800	700	00	100
Mining	6,600	6,600	6,800	00	— 200
Metal mining.....	3,800	3,800	4,000	00	— 200
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	800	800	600	00	200
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,000	2,000	2,200	00	— 200
Contract Construction	10,300	10,000	7,800	300	2,500
Contractors, building construction.....	2,400	2,500	2,700	— 100	— 300
Contractors, other than building.....	4,600	4,200	2,000	400	2,600
Contractors, special trade.....	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Transportation and utilities	17,300	17,300	17,600	00	— 300
Interstate railroads.....	7,800	7,800	8,100	00	— 300
Transportation except railroads.....	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100
Utilities including communication.....	5,800	5,800	5,900	00	— 100
Trade	37,600	37,200	37,800	400	— 200
Wholesale trade.....	8,200	8,100	8,300	100	— 100
Retail trade.....	29,400	29,100	29,500	300	— 100
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,300	5,300	5,600	00	— 300
Food stores.....	4,900	4,800	4,800	100	100
Eating and drinking establishments.....	6,900	6,700	6,900	200	00
Automotive and filling stations.....	5,700	5,700	6,000	00	— 300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,600	6,600	6,200	00	400
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,800	6,700	— 100	00
Services and miscellaneous	22,400	22,300	22,100	100	300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,500	2,400	2,400	100	100
Personal services.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6).....	17,900	17,900	17,700	00	200
Government	39,300	39,200	38,900	100	400
Federal.....	10,100	10,000	9,700	100	400
State and local.....	29,200	29,200	29,200	00	00
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,100	22,100	20,500	00	1,600
Manufacturing.....	3,400	3,400	3,100	00	300
Contract construction.....	2,600	2,700	2,000	— 100	600
Transportation and utilities.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	5,500	5,400	5,200	100	300
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	4,600	4,600	4,500	00	100
Government.....	4,000	4,000	3,700	00	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	22,500	22,600	22,800	— 100	— 300
Manufacturing.....	2,900	2,900	2,900	00	00
Contract construction.....	1,000	1,000	1,300	00	— 300
Transportation and utilities.....	2,700	2,700	2,700	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	7,200	7,200	7,200	00	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate.....	1,500	1,500	1,400	00	100
Services and miscellaneous (8).....	3,700	3,800	4,000	— 100	— 300
Government.....	3,500	3,500	3,300	00	200

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 913 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,400 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

(8) Same as (6) above. Also includes mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MAR. 1962 AND MAR. 1961

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Mar. 1962		Mar. 1961		Mar. 1962		Mar. 1961		Mar. 1962				Mar. 1961				Wk. 4-7	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
Anaconda.....	77	10	45	1	382	49	645	129	55	21	76	23	21	7	28	5	207	610
Billings.....	561	134	671	154	3,052	628	3,545	729	447	125	572	201	417	110	527	183	1,739	2,336
Bozeman.....	163	36	107	23	769	163	570	164	101	36	137	26	121	44	165	35	398	359
Butte.....	224	38	162	32	1,430	262	2,127	561	178	15	193	57	61	10	71	16	711	1,493
Cut Bank.....	61	15	46	13	446	87	467	160	31	130	161	25	25	118	143	5	236	303
Dillon.....	51	18	61	31	188	56	290	60	33	104	137	71	32	92	124	65	117	183
Glasgow.....	85	19	105	8	560	172	990	288	65	24	89	23	91	12	103	21	376	740
Glendive.....	61	9	76	21	341	86	359	87	70	13	83	27	48	11	59	12	161	260
Great Falls.....	504	92	582	150	2,932	868	2,822	760	326	225	551	107	253	190	443	107	1,358	1,708
Hamilton.....	61	13	52	13	540	121	692	144	27	18	45	21	15	15	30	9	284	418
Havre.....	114	14	42	11	672	185	614	175	76	79	155	36	78	123	201	62	282	410
Helena.....	204	33	191	49	876	245	951	331	119	16	135	22	118	14	132	37	539	746
Kalispell.....	168	28	118	24	1,938	552	2,576	635	82	6	88	29	103	2	105	34	1,550	2,247
Lewistown.....	80	19	162	49	420	100	502	144	48	60	108	34	39	53	92	33	293	267
Livingston.....	69	15	90	27	492	119	684	165	44	9	53	14	51	10	61	15	327	482
Miles City.....	87	12	69	10	421	139	525	130	51	88	139	30	44	50	94	33	273	397
Missoula.....	433	80	312	75	1,645	387	1,234	350	190	28	218	38	121	18	139	37	880	1,258
Polson.....	61	5	71	21	399	111	522	145	36	97	133	27	53	71	124	58	298	427
Shelby.....	83	25	110	27	384	102	530	146	45	38	83	31	44	143	187	48	180	351
Sidney.....	39	3	30	7	290	61	308	62	29	17	46	13	39	9	48	17	198	181
Thomp. Falls.....	38	14	56	22	341	106	361	120	39	39	10	37	3	40	18	228	318
Wolf Point.....	102	28	62	9	417	99	484	134	16	13	29	7	19	14	33	9	317	385
TOTALS.....	3,326	660	3,220	777	18,935	4,698	21,798	5,619	2,108	1,162	3,270	872	1,830	1,119	2,949	859	10,952	15,879

*Includes 517 claims of the Fed. UC program 619 same a year ago. 1,120 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar.(1) 1962	Feb.(2) 1962	Mar. 1961	Mar.(1) 1962	Feb.(2) 1962	Mar. 1961	Feb.(2) 1962	Mar.(1) 1962	Mar. 1961
All Manufacturing.....	\$ 96.36	\$ 96.50	\$ 93.48	38.7	38.6	38.0	\$ 2.49	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.46
Durable goods.....	90.72	91.37	89.15	37.8	37.6	37.3	2.40	2.43	2.39
Primary metals.....	102.96	104.49	98.75	39.6	40.5	39.5	2.60	2.58	2.50
Nondurable goods.....	102.80	103.72	101.53	40.0	40.2	39.2	2.57	2.58	2.59
Food and kindred products.....	89.02	88.18	85.49	41.6	41.4	41.7	2.14	2.13	2.05
All Mining.....	109.59	109.75	102.17	41.2	40.8	38.7	2.66	2.69	2.64
Metal mining.....	106.27	106.27	101.26	39.8	39.8	38.5	2.67	2.67	2.63
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)....	99.25	100.02	97.59						
Transportation (except railroads).....	103.59	104.08	103.47						
Utilities and communiaction.....	96.32	97.66	93.93	39.8	39.7	39.3	2.42	2.46	2.39

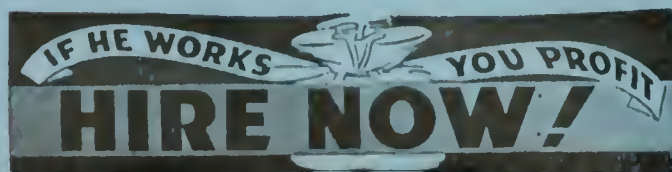
(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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